

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-22 are pending. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph.

Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Micka et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,577,222.

The undersigned is grateful to the Examiner for granting an interview to discuss the various claim rejections. Accordingly, the claims have been amended as presented above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes another telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 650-324-6352.

Respectfully submitted,



George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
GBFY:cmm
60388362 v1